

**WATER QUALITY PROTECTION DIVISION &
GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM OFFICE
WEEKLY ACTIVITY REPORT - WEEK ENDING 2/6/15**

WATER QUALITY PROTECTION DIVISION

EPA R6 DETERMINES EL PASO LAND PURCHASE INELIGIBLE FOR DWSRF

FUNDING: On January 21, 2015, the Texas Water Development Board sent the EPA Region 6 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program a Write-Up for the El Paso Water Utilities Public Service Board's proposed land purchase as a Source Water Protection project within the DWSRF program. The R6 DWSRF did not find it eligible for funding from the DWSRF program for numerous reasons, including the land would be used for *future* anticipated growth. Other issues making this land purchase ineligible is the lack of a priority setting process at TWDB, as well as the fact that the loan amount would exceed the allowable amount of Local (15%) set-aside funds available. The R6 DWSRF program also commented that a 'willing seller' for the 26,000 acres would be questionable, being that this acreage is over the Bone Springs Aquifer in Hudspeth County. "Rule of Capture" right in Texas is a very contentious issue at this time in this drought-prone area. The R6 DWSRF program is anticipating a rebuttal from TWDB on this determination of ineligibility. **Diane Taheri, 665-7460; Maurice Rawls, 665-8049; Javier Ballí, 665-7261**

FIELD LEVEL AGREEMENT WITH VICKSBURG DISTRICT: On January 30, 2015, the Associate Director of the Ecosystems Branch and the Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, signed a Field Level Agreement to improve communication, establish a framework to strengthen the enforcement program, and to reduce overlapping work between the agencies. This is the fourth Field Level Agreement signed by the Corps with EPA, Region 6. The previous agreements are with the Albuquerque District, New Orleans District, and Memphis District. The Field Level Agreement will assist in establishing a process of communication between the Army Corps of Engineers and EPA to better coordinate the enforcement actions. **Wanda Boyd, 665-6696**

BAYOU DUPONT SEDIMENT DELIVERY MARSH CREATION #3 AND TERRACING

PROJECT FINDING: The Marine & Coastal Section Chief will sign by February 6, 2015, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Bayou Dupont Sediment Delivery Marsh Creation #3 and Terracing CWPPRA project BA-164. The proposed action will create a 252-acre marsh platform and two terrace fields in Jefferson and Plaquemines Parishes. The project will have a beneficial effect and will not significantly adversely affect the environment. The FONSI and EA will be made available on the Division website and by Notice of Availability. **Barbara Aldridge, 665-2712; Karen McCormick, 665-8365**

ENERGY MANAGEMENT: Staff from the Planning and Analysis Team and the Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center at the University of Texas in Arlington conducted an energy assessment at the Lakeview Regional Water Reclamation Plant in Lake Dallas on January 29 and 30, 2015. Energy audit data was entered in the EPA Energy Use Assessment Tool to show the plant uses approximately \$300,000 on energy costs, with blowers in the aeration process accounting for half of this cost. One recommendation from this assessment is for the utility to reduce the amount of air being generated in the aeration process, resulting in lower energy consumption at the plant. **David Reazin, 665-7501**

MIDDLE RIO GRANDE (MRG) WATERSHED BASED MS4 PERMIT: On February 12, 2015, EPA Region 6 Water Quality Protection Division Director, Bill Honker, and NPDES

Permits and TMDL Branch staff will meet with the Phase I and Phase II Albuquerque Urbanized Area (UA) permittees. The meeting agenda includes a Q/A session to discuss the process to submit Notice of Intents (NOIs), implementation of Stormwater Management Plans and TMDLs. During the same trip, two meetings will be held with the Pueblo of Sandia and the Pueblo of Isleta to continue discussing the municipal stormwater waiver options under Phase II regulations at 40 CFR 122.32(d) and (e). **Nelly Smith, 665-7109**

THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY SUBMITS A MODIFIED NPDES PERMIT FOR TYSON'S - GRANNIS PROCESSING FACILITY:

On January 30, 2015, the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) submitted final revisions for a modification to Tyson's National Pollutant Elimination Discharge System (NPDES) permit. The changes constitute a major modification providing for redistribution of a nitrate wasteload allocation (WLA) established by the Rolling Fork TMDL. The redistribution will be taken from the margin of safety built into the TMDL and is not expected to have any effect on the overall loading established for Rolling Fork. Redistribution of the load will be addressed by an update to the State's Water Quality Management Plan and will be public noticed in conjunction with the draft modified permit. EPA plans to issue a no objection letter for the modification by the end of the week. **Mike Tillman, 665-7531; Miranda Hodgkiss, 665-7538**

LUCITE BEAUMONT PETITION REISSUANCE UPDATE: The petition reissuance final approval package was signed on February 5th. The public comment period for this decision was from December 18th until February 2nd and no comments were received. This reissuance for Lucite's two hazardous waste injection wells is adding new injection intervals, increasing the allowable density range of the wastestream, increasing the maximum allowable injection volume, adding allowable waste codes for the wastestream and lengthening the operational life of the injection wells until December 31, 2030. Lucite's plant, which is located in Nederland, Texas (near Beaumont), manufactures Hydrogen Cyanide, Acrylonitrile, Methyl Methacrylate, Methacrylic Acid and other specialty chemicals used in polymers and plastics. **Ken Johnson, 665-8473; Brian Graves, 665-7193**

EPA REGION 6 WATER QUALITY PROTECTION DIVISION AND THE CITY OF BATON ROUGE & EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH SIGN MOU: EPA and the City of Baton Rouge and the East Baton Rouge Parish signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will make the Federally Funded Sole Source Aquifer (SSA) project review process more efficient. Baton Rouge and East Baton Rouge Parish now have a clearer understanding of what projects overlying the SSA have the potential to contaminate the aquifer and need to be submitted to EPA for a project review and response. This should reduce the time spent on project submittal and review in the Baton Rouge area by approximately 25%. **Mike Bechdol, 665-7133**

GULF OF MEXICO PROGRAM OFFICE

LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN INTERAGENCY CONSERVATION

PARTNERSHIP MEETING: On February 4th, The GMPO Chief Scientist participated in the Lower Mississippi River Basin Interagency Conservation Partnership meeting in Vicksburg, MS. At this meeting, the partners completed targeting of watersheds in which to conduct best practices to improve water quality and habitat. Interagency partners include: US Fish & Wildlife Service, Army Corps, US Geological Survey, EPA and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. **Staff Contact: Troy Pierce**